MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 JUNE 1981

Iran

Confirming that the Majlis will debate President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's political competence on 17 June, Tehran radio reported that thousands of Tehran citizens gathered outside the Majlis and Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's office shouting slogans against the president. AFP said the demonstrators called for Bani-Sadr's execution. It also reported that Majlis deputies belonging to former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan's Iranian liberation movement boycotted the Majlis session. Tehran radio noted that 10 deputies, Bazargan among them, were absent without permission from the day's session. Meanwhile, AFP reported that the three-man committee established to investigate disputes among the president and his opponents in the government and other institutions has been dissolved following the resignation of Bani-Sadr's representative, Shahaboddin Eshraqi.

According to the clandestine Radio Iran, religious fundamentalists have clashed with their opponents in Mashhad, Esfahan, Tabriz, Ramsar, Shiraz and Hamadan in recent days. Ahvaz radio reported the arrest of Bani-Sadr supporters in Masjed-e Soleyman and Mahshahr, while Shiraz radio said Yasuj citizens closed the president's office in their town. A statement by the Central Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office, broadcast by Tehran radio on 17 June, again called on citizens of Tehran to patrol the streets of the capital to safeguard the Islamic revolution from plots and attempts to create chaos by Bani-Sadr's supporters.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported an Iraqi rocket attack on Ahvaz and Dezful on 15 June. An armed forces communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, claimed an Iraqi plane had been downed in Ahvaz district on 16 June. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by the Voice of the Masses radio, said 68 Iranians had been killed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin and mentioned minor clashes in the Gilan-e Gharb and Abadan regions.

POW Exchange--Nicosia radio reported that Iran and Iraq have exchanged wounded prisoners of war at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus under the auspices and supervision of the International Red Cross. AFP, citing Red Cross sources in Geneva, reported that Iran instigated the exchange.

Kuwait

KUNA, citing AL-WATAN, reported that Kuwaiti air defenses shot down a Phantom and hit another aircraft during a 13 June raid by three Iranian planes on the Al-'Abdali border post.

Iraq

INA reported that First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Moscow on 17 June at the head of a delegation. The visit will last several days. Ramadan's talks with Soviet officials will cover Iraqi-Soviet relations, INA said, and the two sides will also discuss international issues of mutual interest.

Israel

Data on Reactor Attack--The daily MA'ARIV reported on 16 June that Israel will put at the disposal of the U.S. Congress intelligence documents verifying its contention that the Iraqi nuclear plant was going to be hot soon and that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn intended to use an Iraqi nuclear bomb against Israel.

Reagan Press Conference

Jerusalem radio reported that at a rally in Lod Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said President Ronald Reagan's remarks at a Washington press conference on 16 June concerning Israel's motives for bombing the Iraqi reactor are very important and encouraging. According to Amman radio, the Jordanian daily AD-DUSTUR said on 17 June that instead of playing down the Israeli crime, Reagan threw U.S. weight in favor of the aggressor, thus increasing tension in the area. The paper called for a comprehensive and effective oil boycott of the United States. Damascus radio on 17 June cited the Syrian daily TISHRIN as saying that Reagan's assertion that he finds it difficult to imagine that Israel poses a threat to its neighbors is unreasonable. TISHRIN also said it is unreasonable for Reagan to ask Syria not to use its defensive missiles when he did not ask Israel to stop its overflights of the Arab states.

Lebanese Crisis

Habib Mission--Damascus radio briefly reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. special envoy Philip Habib on 16 June.

According to Jeruslaem television, Prime Minister Begin's office clarified the prime minister's earlier statement regarding Israeli action in the event of a failure of Habib's mission, explaining that Begin had not presented an ultimatum and would give the negotiations all the necessary time if Habib says he is close to a peaceful solution.

Security Situation--Beirut radio reported violations of the cease-fire in Beirut and Zahlah. The Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian sniping caused a fire in a Zahlah shop and reported that one women was killed and six people were injured in a surprise rocket attack in Beirut. Beirut radio announced that units of the internal security forces have taken up positions protecting the Chamber of Deputies building. The radio also reported Israeli and border-strip militia shelling of An-Nabatiyah and other southern areas.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR reported that the National Fatherland Front held its founding congress in Kabul. The 940 delegates unanimously approved nominees for the front's presidium, its constitution and a statement to the congress by President Babrak Karmal.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DOST SENDS CABLE TO BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD110202 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jun 81

[Telegram from Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost to Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov on 20th anniversary of establishment of Bulgarian-Afghan relations--read by announcer, date not given]

[Text] Allow me to convey to you my warmest and sincere greetings on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DRA and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

I want to state clearly that from the beginning the relationship between our countries has been marked by cordiality and respect for each other's freedom, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Our relationship has steadily, healthily developed in the spheres of politics, culture and economics. This relationship and the opportunity for fraternal cooperation have further strengthened and developed since the national and democratic Sawr Revolution, particularly since its new developmental stage began.

We are confident that on the basis of the long-established, profound and friendly relationship between our countries, the broad, fraternal cooperation between our countries is in the interest of both peoples and of the strengthening of world peace, detente, and the national and democratic freedom movements.

I take this opportunity to wish you health and further successes and to wish the fraternal people of Bulgaria many successes.

41 PEOPLE CHARGED WITH TERRORISM RELEASED

LD140716 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0529 GMT 14 Jun 81

[Text] Kabul, 13 Jun (BAKHTAR)--41 persons who were under custody on charges of terrorism have been released in Herat. On the occasion of their release the governor of Herat threw light on the humane aspirations of the party and the government. Repenting their past actions, the released persons promised to serve their people and their homeland honestly and humanely.

KABUL COMMANDER WARNS CITIZENS OF MINING EXPLOSIONS

LD161212 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0330 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Announcement by commander of Kabul Garrison--announcer read]

[Text] The esteemed citizens of Kabul are hereby informed that the Department of Radiation Industry will detonate explosives in the mine of [word indistinct] today, Tuesday, from 1400-1630, to obtain their necessary raw material.

BRIEFS

BULGARIAN TRADE DELEGATION--A Bulgarian trade delegation left Kabul today for home. The delegation conducted useful research and had discussions with relevant DRA authorities on expanding trade between both countries, especially the export of Afghan commodities to Bulgaria. During its stay in Kabul, the delegation signed a contract with the relevant Afghan authorities for the purchase of 1,000 tons of cotton. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 7 Jun 81 LD]

SATTAR: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SET FOR 21 SEP

BK161457 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1315 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Bangladesh acting President Abdus Sattar's broadcast to the nation--live]

[Text] Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim, my dear countrymen, as-Salaam-u Alayqum. We are deeply distressed by the loss of our dearest, great leader, but with the profound blessing of the merciful God we have nearly crossed the [words indistinct] of the national life successfully. I extend my sincere greetings to you for the great patience and responsibility you have demonstrated in maintaining the democratic process in the country and upholding the sanctity of the holy constitution in this critical hour of the nation.

We express our satisfaction and deep gratitude to the patriotic armed forces and the people who unitedly demonstrated their firm determination to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation and uphold its democratic values in this transitional period. Bearing in mind the great contribution made by our dearest leader, the late Ziaur Rahman, for restoring the people's democratic rights and following the path and principles shown by him, we have to (?carry on) and achieve that democratic process. Bearing in mind the national (?pledge) of upholding democracy and the sanctity of the constitution, the present government is fulfilling its obligations according to the constitution.

Just after I took the responsibility of the acting presidency in an emergency situation, I declared that in accordance with the constitution a presidential election would be held within 180 days. According to that pledge, initial work on an adult-franschised presidential election has already started. I now announce that the date of the presidential election in the country has been fixed for Monday, 21 September. The election commission will soon announce matters related to this election. In this connection, I wish to mention that the present government is determined to hold this election impartially and freely.

In this hour of national life, different political parties, adhering to democratic values [words indistinct]. I believe that in the next few days they will play a similarly constructive role for the greater national interest.

With the unbounded blessings of Almighty God, we will surely be able to successfully fulfill this great responsibility.

Goodbye. (?Long live Bangladesh!)

MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S ASSETS RETURNED TO DAUGHTER

BK141459 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT 14 Jun 81

[Text] The government has handed over the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence at Dhanmundi along with all valuables to his legal successor and daughter, Sheikh Hasina Wazed. A spokesman of the local administration in Dacca said this after his attention had been drawn to a BBC report to this effect.

He said that Mrs Hasina Wazed signed the appropriate documents and [words indistinct] list of items in the presence of relatives and well-wishers. The items include, 103 tolas of gold, diamond and platinum ornaments and more than 4,054 tolas of silver worth 2.9 million taka at the current market price. Besides this, there was more than 180,000 taka cash in local, Indian and other currencies. Except [word indistinct], no firearms or ammunition were returned as no legal papers were received for them.

Mrs Hasina signed an indemnity bond in this regard proclaiming that she would share this property and the other items with other legal heirs.

TEXT OF STATEMENT ON U.S.-PAKISTANI AGREEMENT

BK161607 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1553 GMT 16 Jun 81

["Text" of statement by official spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on U.S. sale of F-16's and other advanced military hardware to Pakistan]

[Text] The Government of India has noted with concern the agreement announced in Islamabad yesterday, June 15, of the immediate sale by the United States of F-16 aircraft and other advanced military hardware to Pakistan over and above a 5-year package of arms sales and economic aid commencing in October 1982 and said to be of value of $3,000 million.

The Government of India acknowledges that every country has a right to acquire weapons for self-defence. It has not commented in any way while Pakistan has been steadily increasing and modernising its military strength over the past decade. The agreement announced yesterday is, however, qualitatively and quantitatively different. It could introduce immediately a new level of weapons sophistication into the region which could affect the existing balance.

The Government of India reiterates its consistent desire for good relations with Pakistan and that India poses no threat whatsoever to that country. The decision of the U.S. Government could undermine the serious effort that is underway to strengthen the process of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan, an important manifestation of which was the recently concluded visit of the Indian foreign minister to Pakistan.

SWAPO RECOGNIZED, OFFICE TO BE SET UP IN DELHI

BK161632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] The Government of India has agreed in principle to receive a resident representative of the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO]. SWAPO has been recognized by India as the sole, authentic and genuine organization of the people of Namibia. India has traditionally extended full diplomatic, moral and material support to the organization in its struggle for the decolonization of Namibia. In the past, India gave substantial material assistance to SWAPO either directly or through the United Nations agencies.

SWAPO considers its ties with India a great significance and feels that its office in New Delhi will further facilitate its contacts with the Government of India. At present, these contacts are maintained through India's diplomatic missions in Dar es Salaam and Lusaka.

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF VISITS NAGALAND 16 JUN

BK161313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] Gen Krishna Rao, chief of the army staff, paid a 1-day visit to Nagaland today. It was his first visit to Nagaland after becoming chief of the army staff. Talking to newsmen in Kohima, General Rao pointed out that incidents from across the international borders would be curbed through an understanding and cooperation of the Burmese Government for the benefit of both the countries. Soon after his arrival he called on Chief Minister Jasokie.

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 0240 GMT on 17 June adds: "The chief of the army staff, Gen Krishna Rao, has said that arrangements have been made for the Burmese security force to conduct joint operations to flush out Naga insurgents now operating in northern Burma."]

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON PLOTS OF 'U.S. AGENTS'

LD170824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Statement issued on 17 June by the Central Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office]

[Text] Oh Muslim nation of Iran: Oh combatants, who on 15 June (?threw out) 25 centuries of [words indistinct]. Give this message your full attention.

According to information received, counterrevolutionary minigroups, following the disgraceful defeat of their counterrevolutionary uprising plan on 15 June, with the excuse of supporting Bani-Sadr, intend--especially today--to create chaos, thus paving the way for the return of U.S. imperialism. Where the disturbances took place are the focal points of the recent plots. Therefore, the Central Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office requests the righteous and brave people of Tehran to safeguard their glorious Islamic revolution with their direct and active presence in the streets, and to foil the plots of the U.S. agents.

The Central Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office and all the security forces are watching the developments with revolutionary decisiveness, and consider it their (?definite) and religious duty to prevent chaos and to implement the law. Those lacking sociopolitical identity will not be given the opportunity to carry out the wishes of their filthy Eastern and Western masters.

[Signed] The Central Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office

CROWD ASKS MAJLIS TO ADDRESS BANI-SADR 'OFFENSES'

LD161236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Excerpts] The Central News Bureau reports that thousands of Tehran citizens gathered in front of the Islamic Majlis shouting slogans and asking for the president's political incompetence to be discussed and determined in the Majlis. Those gathered, while shouting slogans in support of the line of Imam Khomeyni, velayat-e faqih and the militant clergy, asked for opposers of this line to be excommunicated.

At 1100, the Majlis deputies participated in the gathering. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis, made a speech in connection with current events and the Majlis' review of the president's political competence. The report says that the crowd then gathered in front of the prime minister's office, shouting slogans and asking for an investigation into the offenses committed by the president. According to the report, Raja'i could not take part in the gathering of his supporters as he was at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The crowd gradually dispersed.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafansjani recording] I would like to ask you to be present until the final establishment of the Islamic revolution, until the end of our task, just as you have always been present, as your presence keeps away all problems and dangers threatening the Islamic Republic. Now, I ask you to peacefully disperse and keep calm, just as you have always done, and go back to your houses and let us carry on with our job as deputies. May God's hand support you and God's blessing be with you. [end recording]

MAJLIS FAILS TO RAISE QUORUM IN 16 JUN SESSION

LD161726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, this afternoon's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly began at 1405 chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Several of the ministers also took part. After a while, Parvaresh, the deputy speaker of the Majlis, took the chair.

This afternoon's open session ended at 1515 because there wasn't a sufficient number of deputies present to reach a quorum. The next open session of the Majlis will be held at 0700 tomorrow.

The Majlis speaker announced that all leave and official missions of Majlis deputies are hereby canceled and all deputies must take part in tomorrow's open session.

Absent Deputies Named

LD161712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Consultative Assembly announced the names of those deputies who were absent without permission from today's session. They are as follows:

1. 'Abbas Abu-Sad'idi-Manuchehri, deputy from Jiroft;
2. Yadollah Sahabi, deputy from Tehran;
3. Mehdi Bazargan, deputy from Tehran;
4. (?Kazem) Sami, deputy from Tehran;
5. Ebrahim Yazdi, deputy from Tehran;
6. 'Ali Golzadeh-Ghaffuri, deputy from Tehran;
7. Ahmad Salamatian, deputy from Esfahan;
8. Ahmad Ghazanfar Pur, deputy from Lenjan;
9. Hasan Lahuti, deputy from Rasht; and
10. Shahab Mahmudi, deputy from Borujen.

Salamatian Dismissed

LD162218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, during today's session of the internal commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the project related to councils was investigated and Articles 5 to 13 were approved. Salamatian was dismissed as a member of this commission for being absent from seven consecutive sessions without any excuse. [Salamatian is a deputy from Esfahan and a supporter of President Bani-Sadr]

KHUZESTAN GUARDS, IMAM DENOUNCE NATIONAL FRONT

GF161600 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Joint statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Khuzestan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Public Relations Office of the reconstruction crusade and Ahvaz Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Jazayeri, no date given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] As our dear imam has clearly announced, we consider the National Front to be atheistic and severely condemn its coconspirators--such as the hypocrites, the defunct offices for coordination of activities between the people and the president, pseudoclerical nationalists, supporters of the West, Savakists, the politically bankrupt and the pseudoclergy--who have all hidden behind the president. We hereby announce that any acts contrary to Islam and the Constitution--such as marches, creation of an atmosphere or announcement of uprising, and resistance against the Islamic Republic by any group or individual--will be crushed. We will not give them a second chance to regroup or commit treachery. We will not miss the slightest counterrevolutionary or anti-Islamic act with the aid of the ever-aware people of Khuzestan and will confront these in the strongest possible way.

PRESIDENT'S COORDINATION OFFICE CLOSED IN YASUJ

GF161540 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] The office for cooperation between people and the president of the republic in Yasuj has been closed.

It was closed following a grand march held by Yasuj citizens during which slogans such as "Commander in Chief Khomeyni, the spirit of God" and "Death to antivelayat-e faqih" were chanted.

REVOLUTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES ARRESTS 16 JUN

LD162204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Statement issued by the Central Islamic Revolution Committee on 16 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Once again divine will has dictated that the Islamic revolution should take a big step in [word indistinct] and strengthening the Islamic Republic and once again, the Islamic revolution strikes a decisive blow against the superpowers and their internal agents. Following the imam's historic speech, and on the eve of the anniversary of the death of our martyrs Hajj Sadeq Amanai, Mohammad Bokhara'i, Saffar Harandi and Morteza Nik-Nezhad, members of the Islamic coalition council, the heroic nation of Iran, through its vigilant presence, has delivered such a strong blow to the heads of hypocrites and blasphemous minigroups that they will not be able to react for a long time to come. In thanking this self-sacrificing nation, we announce that yesterday the cooperation between the people and revolutionary and security organs became stronger, and with their assistance several people who had waged war against the Islamic Republic were arrested and handed over to the Islamic Revolution Committee. Files on the arrested individuals are being investigated and the results will be announced in later statements.

In the hope of greater cooperation.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee

BANI-SADR SUPPORTERS ARRESTED IN MASJED-E SOLEYMAN

GF161433 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] A number of supporters of the hyprocrites and Peykar [clandestine antiregime organization] who marched in Masjed-e Soleyman yesterday without permission were arrested and delivered to revolution guards by the Muslim townspeople. According to a dispatch, various groups of people held a march to oppose the illegal march and chanted: "The true mojahed is raging in the fronts; the false mojahed sells pamphlets," "The commander in chief of the forces is Khomeyni, the spirit of God," "Oh God, Oh God, keep Khomeyni [alive] until the mahdi's uprising."

MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ BACKING FOR BANI-SADR CITED

LD170903 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jun 81 p 2

[Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq has issued a statement declaring that it will continue to support President Bani-Sadr and the banned newspapers, particularly ENQELAB-E ESLAMI. It has also devoted a number of editions of its own publication [MOJAHED] to a detailed explanation of how it would fully support the newly emerged wing [of president's supporters], and how through its members it would exert all its might, and use its propaganda and operational facilities to overthrow what it calls the "ruling clique." The text of the statement is as follows:

"In the name of God and the heroic people of Iran. Dear compatriots, free and noble people of Iran: The plot to close down newspapers which do not support the [Islamic Republican] Party, particularly ENQELAB-ESLAMI, is a further step toward the removal of the president, Dr Bani-Sadr, and its intention is solely to impose even more repression, to gladden this country's enemies and to suppress and slaughter on the home front.

"In these sensitive times, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization of Iran once again condemns all these plots and warns of the need to guard for the benefit of all classes every basic right and freedom gained by our people's great revolution; [it also draws attention to] the crucial importance of supporting the president, who is the target for these plots.

"[Signed] Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran, 8 June 1981"

RAJA'I CHAIRS MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

LD161222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, a session of deputies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the ministry this morning, in the presence of Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the session, which lasted about 4 hours, Iran's assets in embassies and representative offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, and also the propaganda in Iraq and other countries against Islam, the Islamic revolution and its leadership were discussed. The necessary decisions were taken on each of the issues raised.

TEHRAN: USSR INVOLVED IN 'ANOTHER VIETNAM' IN DRA

GF161723 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 15 Jun 81

[Unattributed commentary: "What Is Going on in Afghanistan?"]

[Excerpts] Before they implemented their third plan, which stipulated the placing of Babrak Karmal in power in Afghanistan, the Russians ordered 85,000 troops of the Red Army with all their arms and equipment into that country. They believed that only the Red Army could safeguard Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Although the Soviet move was regarded at the time as a positive contribution toward balance on the international level, it became obvious during the past year that they have neither succeeded in maintaining this balance nor in achieving their targets. The fully equipped Red Army has failed before the Afghan mojahedin. It has confirmed most clearly that faith is above everything else.

The colonialist press is publishing different views regarding the Afghan Islamic movement and the struggle being waged by the Muslim mojahedin. Certain papers describe the Afghan Islamic movement as national, anti-Western and traditional. Other circles claim that it is a feudalist endeavor encouraged by imperialism. As evidence, they point to the fact that the Afghan mojahedin are fighting against the Soviet Union.

The truth is that the destitute people of Afghanistan are struggling with all their might to safeguard both the independence of their country and Islam.

The Moscow leaders have become aware of the resolute Islamic will of the Muslim Afghan people. They are convinced that their view that they would be able to subjugate the Muslims with 85,000 troops was wrong. It will be recalled that on several occasions they informed the world that they would withdraw their troops from Afghanistan.

What they actually meant was that they would withdraw their troops after subduing and crushing the Afghan Muslims.

This was not achieved, and the situation took a turn contrary to what they planned. Realizing that they would not succeed in halting the Afghan Muslims, the Russians preferred to let the puppet Afghan regime decide when they should withdraw. Meanwhile, however, the Russians have set up bases in a number of sensitive areas in Afghanistan and reinforced them with modern missiles. The move has been taken to mean preparation for a prolonged war.

Regardless of all this, there is no doubt that the Afghan mojahedin, who have for the past 21 months been waging a heroic struggle against the Taraki and Amin regimes, will continue their unfortunate fight against the Russians and their (?puppet regime), proving that Islam will prevail over abuse and falsehood. This prolonged war will prevent the reorganization and reinforcement of the forces of Marxism. It will also make it very difficult for the Russians to establish themselves in Afghanistan.

It is common knowledge that Afghanistan has become another Vietnam, this time for the Soviet Union. In their protracted war, the Vietnamese defeated U.S. imperialism. With the resolute struggle they have launched against the enemies of Islam, the Afghan mojahedin will turn the Afghan land into a cenetery for the Red Army, crush Soviet imperialism and a achieve the objectives of Islam.

IRAQ CONDEMNED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

LD121816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jun 81

[Statement by Ministry of Foreign Affairs on extraordinary session of Arab League in Baghdad--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in connection with the extraordinary session of the Arab League in Baghdad, wants to make a few points to enlighten the public. The Baghdad regime, after imposing 9 months of fighting on the Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq in order to help the interests of imperialism and weaken the two powers, which would have been able to bring about the destruction of Israel as a present to the Islamic world, is at this moment on the threshold of collapse. An extensive attempt is being made by the United States and Zionism to maintain this mercenary pawn under any pretext. In its latest efforts to save Saddam from collapse, U.S. imperialism engaged in the absurd show of bombing the Iraqi nuclear reactor by the regime occupying Jerusalem and through propaganda, and by means of deceit and deception is attracting the attention of the governments of the region and the Arab countries toward Baghdad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran warns the Arab and Muslim nations of this dangerous game and announces that Saddam's aim in calling for the session is not for the sake of taking decisions for practical struggle against the occupiers of Jerusalem but rather to put a cover over his crimes in the imposed war, to save himself from a hell he has made for himself, and finally, to be saved from certain collapse. The leadership of the Islamic revolution and the Muslim nation of Iran throughout its struggles has always announced that the danger of Zionism in the Islamic world is equal to the danger of the world-devouring United States and is the most important problem.

Fighting against Zionism is in fact not separate from the struggle for expelling the United States and toppling its agents in the region; the only nations and countries that will be capable of doing this are those that have so far proved their active presence in all political and military fronts.

However, the world of Islam should be aware that the Ba'thist Government of Iraq and treacherous Saddam so far have not taken any steps, except by words, against the regime occupying Jerusalem and that throughout its life this regime has always been an agent of fear and aggression in the Persian Gulf and its neighboring countries and that it has had no other duty except slaughtering the Muslim people of Iraq. This regime has always used its influence in the region as an agent of the superpowers. Therefore, any plan that is designed against Israel with the presence of U.S. agents like Saddam and Shah Husayn will result in nothing but harm for the Arabs and Muslim nation. The continuation of Saddam in power is a conspiracy, the planners of which brought the Zionist regime into being by occupying the lands of the Muslims and inflicting an irreparable blow to the honor of the Muslims by making the Palestinian nation homeless. To prevent Saddam's overthrow under any pretext, even through a holy war against the occupying regime of Jerusalem, is an attempt to strengthen the sovereignty of Zionism and the United States and strengthen mercenary pawns like Shah Husayn and the ally of Zionism, As-Sadat.

Once again, we emphasize that, despite our imposed involvement against Saddam's regime, the Muslim nation of Iran is prepared with all its might to remain steadfast alongside its Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and all those who are sincerely calling for a ceaseless struggle against the occupiers of Jerusalem.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 537-539

537: Battle Successes

LD151942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jun 81

[Communique 537 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Obey God and obey the prophet and those who have authority among you. [Koranic verse] In obedience to the prophetlike orders and valuable guidelines of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran scored many victories in the expulsion of the enemies of Islam and the destruction of the aggressors against the Islamic homeland of Iran.

Yesterday, as a result of ground forces' artillery fire against enemy positions, 3 Iraqi tanks were destroyed near Ahvaz and 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded. In this region, our forces maintained the initiative with their firepower.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, exchange of fire continued and two tanks, one vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun, one ammunition dump, a number of foxholes and trenches were destroyed and a number of Iraqis were killed or wounded.

As a result of Iraqi artillery fire, some residential parts of Abadan were damaged and there were some casualties. Near Abadan our heroes managed to capture nine Iraqis and seize some of their communication equipment. In other operations in the same region, (?one) ammunition depot, six vehicles, two assembly points and seven trenches and foxholes were destroyed. In addition, 45 Iraqis were killed or wounded. On this front, as a result of enemy fire, one of our jeeps carrying ammunition and one water tanker were damaged and three crewmembers were wounded.

Around Dezful, our fighting ground forces units silenced enemy fire in five positions and repulsed enemy tanks and infantry personnel, killing some of the aggressors. In these operations, one enemy vehicle was destroyed and one tank, one antiaircraft gun and one other vehicle were damaged.

In Susangerd, our forces encountered enemy forces laying mines. They fired on the Iraqis, killing or wounding some of them while the rest fled.

On other western fronts, exchange of fire continued, especially in Meymak and Kan-e Sakht. The heroic gendarmerie destroyed one Iraqi mortar position behind one of the heights in Qasr-e Shirin area and destroyed some Iraqi foxholes and trenches.

In operations on 13 June on battlefronts in the south and west, 11 fighters of the ground forces and 3 of the heroic members of the gendarmerie were martyred and achieved happiness.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

538: Fighting in South

LD161742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Communique 538 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The heroic personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their unceasing efforts to expel the aggressive enemy from the Islamic homeland of Iran. The situation on the battlefields over the past 24 hours is brought to your attention as follows:

At 1257 today, one violating Iraqi aircraft was hit and downed in Ahvaz district by one of the high-flying fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a result of efforts and attacks by the heroic units of the ground forces in the Susangerd area, the enemy was forced to retreat from his positions after suffering a large number of dead and wounded; these positions were captured by the forces of Islam. On another front in this region, as a result of our forces' artillery fire, one ammunition tent and two vehicles of the Iraqi Armed Forces were destroyed and a number of tanks sustained heavy damage; a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

On the Abadan front, the fighters of Islam fired at enemy positions and destroyed 3 mortars, 3 vehicles, 2 assembly buildings, 2 batteries, 4 observation towers and 13 foxholes and enemy trenches. Some installations in Basra were also set on fire.

On the Abadan-Mahshahr-Darkhovin axis, our powerful forces destroyed two tanks, one fuel tanker, one ammunition depot and a number of enemy trenches. On these fronts, 25 Iraqi personnel were killed and 10 were wounded. The impotent enemy brought Ahvaz and Dezful under missile attack and inflicted some losses and damages. Also, Abadan came under mortar and artillery fire from the Iraqi aggressors.

The brave navy fighters in Khuninshahr destroyed 1 ammunition depot, 1 mortar pad, 4 batteries and a number of enemy foxholes and wounded about 15 Iraqi personnel. On most of the western fronts, exchange of fire also continued; the firing was more intense in Meymak, Shur-e Shirin and Nakhlestan.

The heroic gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Malekshahi heights opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed three vehicles and seven foxholes and trenches of the Iraqi forces.

In (Charmian) and on the Chaghalvand heights, one observation post and a number of trenches of the aggressors were destroyed and some of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Yesterday the violations of Iraqi planes against a number of our cities were repulsed as the result of vigilance of brave personnel of the antiaircraft units.

On 14 June 15 brave fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred on various battlefields.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

539: Territory Recaptured

LD161834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Communique 539 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their efforts to defend the Islamic homeland despite the current clashes and political activities--activities of various groups and some counter-revolutionary elements, who directly and indirectly intend to weaken the armed forces in war regions.

These efforts by groups will in no way affect our brave combatants in their battle operations and will not reduce their commitment and belief in guarding the Islamic revolution of Iran and recapturing territory of the Islamic homeland of Iran from the invading enemy. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran assures the Muslim and combative nation of Iran that, with succor of God and by relying upon you, the heroic people, and the imam of the nation, they will honestly and with all their power defend the Islamic homeland and the Islamic revolution of Iran against the Iraqi aggressive army and the counterrevolutionary elements. Temptations of the counterrevolutionary elements will not affect our Islamic and patriotic belief at all; as you have witnessed, the armed forces have achieved remarkable victories in recent days; these pursuing operations will continue until we recapture all territory of the Islamic homeland. Coordination and cooperation of all the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during battle operations are admirable.

As it was brought to the attention of our combative and revolutionary compatriots in our previous communique, this morning the powerful forces of Islam, comprising warriors of Qazvin Division, the 55th Brigade of Shiraz, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the mobilization headquarters for irregular warfare and some personnel of the 92d Division, during a series of brave and coordinated operations, created a new epic and bravely attacked the invading enemy. By advancing around 10 to 12 km they forced the incapable enemy to retreat. They recaptured (Dehlaviyeh), situated southeast of Bostan, and mopped up this part of the homeland from the filth of the existence of Iraqi invaders. During these operations three Iraqi tanks were destroyed and a large number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. Seven personnel carriers, six vehicles and one antiaircraft gun were captured intact and nine enemy personnel were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam.

The Armed Forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic announce their appreciation to every brave combatant of Qazvin Division, the 55th Brigade of Shiraz, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, mobilization headquarters for irregular warfare and the 92d Division, who took part in these heroic operations and beseech God Almighty to bring the final victory of the army of Islam nearer.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PROVINCE ASKS WAR REFUGEES TO STOP COMING

GF141715 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Jun 81

[Text] The war victims affairs foundation of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad has asked all refugee compatriots from war-stricken areas not to come to the province. This request stems from the fact that this province cannot accommodate any more war victims.

ESFAHAN GOVERNOR PRAISES ARMENIAN COOPERATION

GF141733 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Jun 81

[Excerpts] The Esfahan governor attended a function held in Esfahan's Armenian church in the presence of the Armenian religious leader and praised the fruitful cooperation of the Armenian citizens in the war Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The governor said Armenian citizens had fought alongside their Muslim brothers to achieve victory and continuity for the Islamic revolution.

It is worth noting that these functions are being held to stress the fraternal relations between Armenians and Muslims and to honor the Armenian and Muslim martyrs who have died on the battlefront of truth against falsehood.

RADIO IRAN ON CLASHES, CASUALTIES IN CITIES

NC161432 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] Our correspondent has reported from Tehran that bloody clashes and demonstrations broke out at 24 Esfand and Vali'ahd Squares in Tehran. The report indicates that the two groups were shooting at each other and, as a result, 16 were killed and a large number were wounded.

Radio Iran correspondents in Tabriz and Shiraz have also reported that strong clashes broke out between the supporters of the two opportunist flanks of the Islamic Republic. The report from Tabriz indicates that followers of Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari attacked Hezbollahi centers and the headquarters of Beheshti's Islamic Republican Party and inflicted heavy damages. Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's followers, chanting slogans of "Death to Khomeyni," occupied the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party for hours and at the end of the occupation issued a resolution stating their full readiness to overthrow Khomeyni's regime. In an attack on Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's supporters Khomeyni's revolution guards wounded four people. Our correspondent added that during the past 2 days the sound of shooting has not died down in Shiraz.

Clashes broke out between supporters of the two flanks of the Islamic Republic in the country's northern cities. Reports indicate that Amol, Shahsavar and Lahijan witnessed great tension in the past 3 days and tens of people were seriously wounded in recent clashes.

Antiregime demonstrations were staged in Mashhad and Esfahan as well. No precise reports on the number of casualties of the incidents in Mashhad and Esfahan have been received yet but reports received indicate that at least 20 people were wounded and have been hospitalized.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS CLASHES BETWEEN TRIBES, GUARDS

NC161542 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] Last week a group of revolution guards heading toward Kuhmareh region, between Shiraz and Firuzabad, under the supervision of the Firuzabad commander were surrounded by Qashqa'is and following a brief clash all 112 revolution guards were captured.

No casualties were reported, and the Qashqa'is confiscated 10 vehicles and 125 weapons. The Qashqa'is released the 112 guards and the Firuzabad commander 3 days ago.

On 4 June there was an intense clash in the Margun area near the (Kashaveh) gas station between Ta Moradis of the Boyer Ahmad tribe and revolution guards. During the clash, five revolution guards were killed.

In (?Deylegan), located in the Boyer Ahmad region, fighting broke out between the (?Baba Kani and Owlad Mirza 'Ali) tribes over internal differences. When revolution guards intervened in the fighting the two tribes set aside their differences and immediately attacked the guards. After killing three of them, the tribes drove the remainder from their area.

NVOI: BANI-SADR COMMITTED TREASON AGAINST KHOMEYNI

TA160552 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 June carried a commentary entitled "Let Us Decisively Crush the Plots of the Compromising Liberals and of Those Fallen Into the Trap of the Liberals." It said: While addressing a large number of ulema from Mazandaran, Sistan va Baluchestan and other strata of the people Imam Khomeyni revealed a great deal of facts. The Iranian people achieved their own and their dear homeland's liberation from the evil domination of the corrupt and puppet regime of the deceased Mohammad Reza and from U.S. imperialism at a very high cost. However, following the revolution's victory, a handful of compromising road-roller liberals, who were and continue to be linked with thousands of visible and invisible threads to world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its espionage organizations, in reality usurped authority by exploiting the existing situation in the country. Liberals in the Revolution Council and in sensitive military and civil positions have continued their plots and subversions against revolutionary authority even after the fall of the provisional government. For the sake of bringing back U.S. imperialism they are even prepared to see the annihilation of millions of committed and patriotic Iranians. Following the revolution, the compromising liberals, the U.S. Maoist minigroups and many individuals like Bani-Sadr gradually became concentrated in one line, the line opposed to the imam's line, and engaged in a united and organized struggle against the gains of the revolution. Amid this development Bani-Sadr committed the greatest treason against the imam's line and the imam himself, for it was under Bani-Sadr's banner that the compromising liberals, the U.S. Maoists and other U.S. counterrevolutionary minigroups succeeded in delivering harder blows to the gains of the revolution. Bani-Sadr not only both ignored the warning by the true forces of the revolution and did not separate himself from the enemies of the Iranian revolution but, as the imam himself said, he did not even pay heed to the imam's guidelines and advice, thus causing his own downfall. As the imam said: All the efforts of these U.S. minigroups and the compromising liberals are aimed at throwing our free and revolutionary homeland into the lap of usurping and aggressive America. All the attempts of these gentlemen are aimed at overthrowing the system of the Islamic Republic and preparing the ground for implementing the famous plan of Brzezinski and Reagan, bringing to power a moderate and middle-of-the-road government like the liberal government of Bazargan and his partners. The arch-Satan--the sole principal enemy of the Iranian revolution--wants to implement its creeping and gradual plot against our nation's revolution by the hands of the liberals and various opponents of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line. This plot must be thwarted from the root. To accomplish this task, the hands of the liberals and the opponents of the revolution must be cut from all government organizations, and all their economic positions must be smashed. By further consolidating the unity of expression and deed of the true forces of the revolution their constant presence on the scene should be maintained.